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ABSTRACT

This book offers an interdisciplinary perspective on who the children of immigrants are, considering historical and contemporary social attitudes, opportunities, and barriers they encounter. It examines the psychosocial experiences of immigration and considers how these factors interact in ways that lead to divergent pathways of adaptation and identity formation. Information comes from the Longitudinal Immigrant Student Adaptation study and basic research and practice with immigrants and their children. Chapter 1 explores various pathways that immigrant families take to their new homes, distinguishing between immigrants, transnationals, and refugees. Chapter 2 discusses the new immigration, examining how it differs from the immigration of 100 years ago. It notes historical responses to immigration, examines parallels to current dynamics, and discusses recurring concerns about today's immigrants. Chapter 3 describes the psychosocial effects of immigration on families and children, examining gains and losses that occur with immigration and considering changes, opportunities, and stresses in family dynamics. Chapter 4 discusses how children of immigrants reformulate their identities in a new society, introducing the concept of "social mirroring." Chapter 5 discusses factors that contribute to divergent pathways of school adaptation among today's immigrant children. An epilogue reflects on the idea of acculturation. (Contains 264 references.) (SM)

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